

## **Highlights of HB 2900 - Enrolled**

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### **REGULATORY RESTRUCTURING**

- ?? Abates any pending proceeding concerning services improperly classified services.
- ?? Declares all business services as competitive for carriers under an Alternative Regulation plan as of May 1, 2001 (Ameritech). However, rates for services provided to businesses with 1-4 lines are capped at May 1, 2001 levels and remain in effect until July 1, 2005.
- ?? Declares Vertical Services as competitive June 1, 2003 (except caller ID and call waiting) for carriers under an Alternative Regulation plan as of May 1, 2001 (Ameritech).
- ?? Allow all carriers to exclude Yellow Pages revenues from revenue calculations after May 31, 2003.

### **CONSUMERS**

- ?? Provides \$30 million to 2 separate Digital Divide funds: one administered by DCCA (low income) and one by the ICC (high cost).
- ?? Enhances promotion of "Life-Line" enrollment for low-income phone subscribers.
- ?? Requires carriers under an Alt Reg plan to offer 3 flat rate (noncompetitive) packages.
- ?? Codifies Service Quality standards and automatic credits for all carriers.
- ?? Enhances Slamming, Cramming and Jamming protections.
- ?? Provides \$90 million in business customer refunds for settlement of abated misclassification cases.
- ?? Requires deployment of advanced services by incumbent carriers to 80% of their customers by January 2005. ICC can grant a waiver based on economic impact, technical feasibility, or impracticality based on low population density.

### **MARKET OPENING**

- ?? Codifies market-opening provisions in 13-801 (interconnection, collocation, UNEs, and OSS) for carriers under an Alt Reg plan (currently only Ameritech).
- ?? UNEs, OSS, collo, 13-801 provisions, and general violations of ICC Orders relating to matters between telecom carriers are added to 13-514 impediments to competition. Increases enforcement of inter-carrier disputes regarding market-opening provisions.
- ?? Adds voluntary mediation and binding arbitration options for contested cases.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

- ?? ICC can assess increased fines. Maximum fine set at .00825% of a carrier's gross annual intrastate revenues per day, per violation (ca. \$250,000 for Ameritech, \$ 33,000 for Verizon / \$2,000 cap for carriers with less than 35,000 lines).
- ?? Grants ICC authority to impose interim tariffs as part of an ICC Order.
- ?? Codifies minimum Competitive Reclassification criteria.

SUNSET: JULY 1, 2005

?? Expedites ICC ability to gain injunctive relief.

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